

Gp 3753
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): GLEASMAN, Vernon E. and ALEXANDER, Warren R.	
APPLN. NO: 09/238,444	EXAMINER: Michalsky, G.
FILED: 01/28/99	ART UNIT: 3753
TITLE: SPOOL VALVE FOR FLUID CONTROL	

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
MAILED 08/10/99**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

PROVISIONAL ELECTION

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed August 10, 1999, applicants provisionally elect claims 1-11 (Group I) for further prosecution in this application. However, applicants also traverse this Restriction Requirement.

The Restriction Requirement divides the claims into two groups, namely, Group I, defining a combination multiple valve system, and Group II, defining a subcombination spool valve, holding that the inventions of these two groups are distinct. This holding is traversed.

As is apparent from claim 1 (upon which claims 2-11 depend), the combination claims all rely on a subcombination spool valve as an essential distinguishing feature. Although the Restriction Requirement states that the subcombination of claim 17 recites particulars not required in Group I, applicants believe this statement is incorrect. The basic elements of claim 17 are specifically described in the spool portions of combination claims 1-11.

Therefore, while applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group I, applicants also respectfully request reconsideration of this Restriction Requirement.



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For any question on this or the application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

EUGENE STEPHENS & ASSOCIATES

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Dated: **AUG 26 1999**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231.

Date of Deposit: **AUG 26 1999**

Signature: *CB Austin*